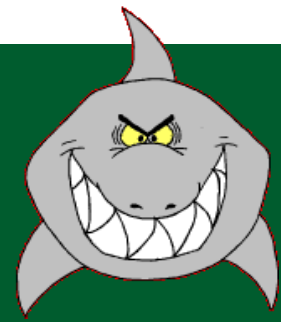


SUZUKI SOURCE



davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Volume 6

February 2015

David Suzuki

Public School

45 Riverwalk Drive

Markham, L6B 0L9

905-209-0435



Principal

Yvonne West

Vice-Principal

Shelley Anand

Admin Assistant

Gail Koidis

Secretaries

Rama Kanagaraja

Sunitha Krishnan

Superintendent

Dr. Lisa Walsh

Trustee

Juanita Nathan



Administrators' Message

January has been a very cold month, resulting, sadly, in many days of indoor recess for the children. Although some parents prefer that we keep the students inside when it's cold, we know that it is far healthier for the students to have the opportunity to go outside at recess, as long as they are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Below are some of the benefits of going outside during the winter:

Breathe Fresh Air: Many parents blame winter air as the cause of colds and flu. Although the viruses that cause colds and flu are more common in the winter months, the circulated air in closed environments (e.g. classroom, daycare, bedrooms...) is actually the main cause of your child getting sick. Therefore, the more time he/she spends indoors, the more at risk he/she is of getting sick...

Strengthen Immune System: Being outside more often allows your child to develop a stronger autoimmune system and a resistance to allergies. Studies show that children who are active outdoors all year long have the best overall health.

Gross Motor Development: Remember that your child is still growing and having the opportunity to engage in any large muscle activity (e.g. run, walk, playing, trudging through snow...) is conducive to their muscular development.

Stimulate The Imagination: Our children spend far too much time in front of a screen (on the computer, playing video games, watching TV) and with all the technological advancements, they are using their imaginations less and less. Playing outside in the snow doing things such as building snow forts and snowmen with their friends, allows them to utilize their problem solving, creative and imaginative skills. (Adapted from '5 Benefits of Outdoor Winter Play - Kidsinthehouse – Parenting Resource)

The Board has identified the range of -16C to -20C (with the wind-chill factor) as a general guideline as to when to keep the children indoors. With this in mind, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with the appropriate clothing to be outside for recess (i.e. hat, scarf, gloves/mitts, boots, snow pants, and jacket/coat).

Term 1 Report Cards will arrive on **Wednesday, February 18**. Please read our insert regarding Learning Skills and Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting to support you in understanding your child's Report Card. We encourage you to discuss concerns and questions related to your children's academic progress, the development of their learning skills, and their social/emotional well-being with the teacher at any time.

Yvonne West
Principal

Shelley Anand
Vice-Principal

Character Matters - Optimism

January's character trait was **Optimism**. "We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future."

Congratulations to our winners:

Mrs. Neate	FTJSA	Roshaan, Lenin
Ms. Llewellyn	FTJSB	Sherena, Ariel
Miss Halliday	FTJSC	Sahana, Nathaniel, Harine
Mrs. Gertsakis	FTJSD	Mehrab, Aakash, Kerol
Miss Eng	FTJSE	Keashavan, Sabareesan, Abhijay
Mrs. Hudspith	FTJSF	Prateek, Lalit, Jolin
Ms. Hall	FTS/1A	Aaryan
Mrs. Barovier	1/2A	Tyler, Jaya
Ms. Wood	1A	Joshua, Aksha
Mrs. Tsiampouris	1B	Barleen, Amina
Mrs. Sambrook	1C	Abisha, Aatheeshan
Mr. Hwee	2/3A	Merveena, Rima
Miss Chan	2A	Meer, Aneeshan
Mrs. Clements	2B	Keaton, Zainab, Shaumya
Miss Steele	2C	Nusaybah, Jothi
Mrs. Arumugam	3/4A	Thenuja
Mr. Kawnik	3A	Marissa, Sanmi
Mrs. Nedelkovski	3B	Basit, Foram
Mrs. Cooper	3C	Mithusan, Ibrahim, Vikash



Character Trait
For February
~ Initiative ~
*We act without
being prompted
by others. We are
eager to do what
needs to be done
without having to
be told to do it.
We take the first
step towards the
achievement of
a goal.*



*David Suzuki Is A
Great Place To Be
Because
Character Counts!*



Our Brain Inquiry Journey

The students in Mrs. Scott's Grade 7/8 Class have embarked upon a Brain Inquiry Journey! Essentially, their learning in Literacy has involved an exploration into the mysteries of the human brain. Students commenced their journey in September with general questions they had about the brain. Next, they formulated a list of categories associated with their inquiries (such as The Brain and Learning, The Brain and Memory, The Brain and Dreaming). Currently, each student has devised a specific question she/he hopes to explore further. On Friday January 23, our students took their learning outside of the classroom with a visit to the Ontario Science Centre. There, students tried to find information (related to their specific inquiry question) with their investigation of the Human Brain Exhibit.



Love, Family and Friendship: David Suzuki's Kindergarten Concert

The Kindergarten students have been eagerly preparing for our upcoming Kindergarten concert on Thursday, February 26th at 6:30pm in the Suzuki gym. The students will be singing songs around our theme of "Love, Family and Friendship." Invitations have been sent out. We hope to see you there!



Are you too sick to go outside at Recess?

Thank you to everyone who follows our school rule that states that if you are too sick to go out for recess, you are too sick to attend school. Please note that supervision is not available for students to remain in classrooms nor at the office during recess times if they are ill. If your child attends school, he or she will be expected to go outside at both morning and lunch recess.



Cold and Flu Prevention



Please have a discussion with your child about how to best prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. Students need to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly if they are coughing and sneezing in their hands. They should cough or sneeze into a tissue if they have one. If not, they should cough or sneeze into their sleeve. Remind your child(ren) not to share food or water bottles. Also, they should avoid sharing musical instruments unless they have sterilized the mouthpiece. If your child is not well, please keep her or him at home so as to help prevent the spread of flu and viruses.

School Council News

Your School Council has worked hard on your behalf to bring in two Outside Service Providers of Extra Curricular Activities for your children. Soccer Training Camp is every Friday after school in the gym and there are about 30 students from Grades 1 to 5 who attend. Guitar Lessons are being provided every Thursday at lunch for about 30 students from grades 1 to 5. The children are very excited about both of these fun activities and parents appreciate the convenience of them being provided right at the school!

Pop Corn Sales have been a big hit with the children. Thank you to all of our families for supporting this School Council fundraising activity. All funds raised will be used to support School Council initiatives (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon; Fun Fair, etc...).

SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATION NOTICE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER



School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions are made by the Board and will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region.

Please note: If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents in the morning will need to be picked up by parents at the end of the school day..

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO AM Stations - 590, 640, 680, 860, 1010, 1050, 102.1, 1540, 1580,

FM Stations - 88.5, 89.9, 92.5, 93.1, 94.1, 94.9, 95.9, 97.3, 98.1, 99.1, 99.9, 101.1, 104.5, 100.7, 107.1

TELEVISION CITY TV, THE A-CHANNEL, CFTO TV, THE WEATHER NETWORK, GLOBAL

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by **calling 1-877-330-3001**.



Planning for the 2015-2016 School Year

We have already begun to plan for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. We are in the process of projecting the number of students who will be attending David Suzuki next year and to consider possible Organizations for the school. In order to help us be as accurate as possible, we would appreciate if you would advise us if you know that your children will not be attending here next year.

Similarly, if you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten here in September, please come into the school to complete the Registration Form.



Kindergarten Registration

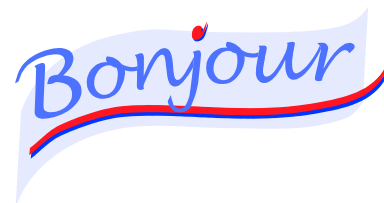


Kindergarten registration commenced on January 16th, for the 2015-16 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who were born in 2010 (SK) and 2011 (JK) (turn four or five years old during 2015), live within the school boundary, and whose parents are public school supporters, will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A “welcome to Kindergarten” information session is planned for May 13th at our school in the gym. For more information please visit the YRDSB website.

We are now accepting registrations for ALL GRADES.

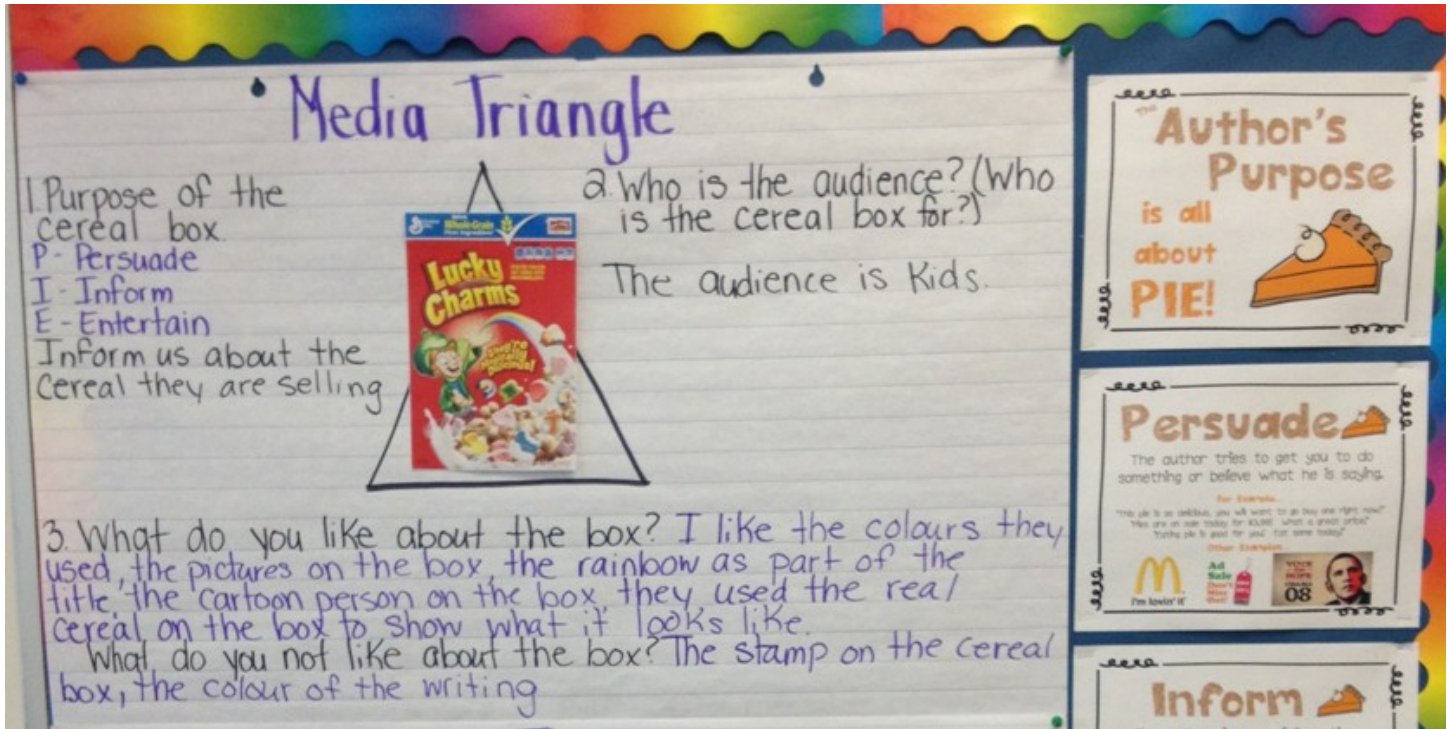
French Immersion and Registration

FI registration began on January 16. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an Office Index Card - short version. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to David Suzuki PS to register. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register. YRDSB’s FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community’s Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student’s FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board’s website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.



Ms. Hall's Media Literacy Unit

The Senior Kindergarten and Grade One students have been working hard on their Media Literacy Unit. They started off by deconstructing cereal boxes by using a Media Triangle. They were able to identify the purpose (e.g., P.I.E. Persuade, Inform and Entertain), the target audience and express opinions about what they liked and did not like about the cereal box.



Students also were sorting pictures to different types of media they have been learning about in class.



Term 1 Report Cards - Wednesday, February 18



Learning Skills

When reviewing your child's report card, pay close attention to the front page which reports on **Learning Skills and Work Habits**. Learning Skills and Work Habits are extremely important for success in and out of school. Although they are assessed on an ongoing basis and reported on at each reporting period, they are not used in determining the grades for the various subject areas. We do, however, know that there is a strong correlation between how well developed a student's learning skills are and how well he/she does in class. Thus, our teachers explicitly teach the learning skills to their students. The six skills/habits are briefly summarized below.

Responsibility is shown when students fulfill commitments, complete and submit assignments and manage their own behaviour.

Organization involves devising and following a coherent plan for completing work, prioritizing tasks, managing time, and effectively choosing and using resources.

Independent Work involves completing a task with minimal teacher direction and/or peer support, following instructions, and revising work as necessary.

Collaboration involves skills such as active listening, helping others to build and consolidate learning, giving and receiving quality feedback, and managing disagreements.

Initiative is acting on new ideas and opportunities for learning with a sense of curiosity and the willingness to take risks.

Self-Regulation involves students monitoring their behaviour and learning, such as attention skills, working memory, and thinking strategies.

Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

Your child is assessed on demonstrated achievement in relation to Ontario Curriculum Expectations.

The expectations for each grade can be found on the Ministry's website. Teachers use assessment and evaluation strategies that address both what students learn and how well they learn.

The curriculum expectations are assessed using the categories identified on the Achievement Chart: Knowledge and Understanding, Communication, Organization, Application. Student work is evaluated using the following Levels of Achievement:

Level 4	80% - 100%	A	Student work exceeds the provincial standards, while still at grade level. Student has demonstrated a thorough and complete understanding of the required knowledge and skills
Level 3	70% - 79%	B	Student work has met the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of most of the required knowledge and skills.
Level 2	60% - 69%	C	Student work is approaching the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of some of the required knowledge and skills.
Level 1	50% - 59%	D	Student work falls below the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of few of the required skills and knowledge.
R	Below 50%	R	Student has not demonstrated an understanding of the required skills and knowledge. Student will require remediation to improve.

Together For Learning - News From The Library

Our library at David Suzuki P.S. is a great place where students can meet in small and large groups to develop a love of reading, ask questions, and engage in inquiry-based research. Some exciting units of study have been ongoing during Term 1. Research projects at several grade levels have explored the differences between primary and secondary resources and worked on making strong point-form notes. Students have also considered how to become 'web-savvy researchers' and ask critical questions about the information they find online. Reflecting on the big ideas found in stories has also been a library focus, and students have been practising 'talking' and 'listening' as they share their thinking in group discussions. As we enter into Term 2, we look forward to more exciting learning in the library!

The circulation desk is a busy spot in our library. Students can visit the library on a daily basis to exchange their books. We are also open at morning recess for students to study, complete assignments, and exchange books. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 may borrow one book at a time and students in grades 2 through 8 may borrow two books at a time. Books are loaned out for a two-week period after which they must be returned or renewed. Overdue notices were recently distributed to homeroom classrooms. If you have questions about overdue or lost books, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Some tips to help students find a good book that is 'just right':

Read the back cover. Does the story sound interesting?

Examine the front cover. Does the picture capture your imagination?

Read the reviews on the inside front cover.

Read the first page or first chapter. Do you want to keep reading?

Have you read a book by this author before?

How old is the main character? Is he or she about your age?

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair in December! Great sales resulted in a net profit of approximately \$1,700. Half of these proceeds were received in Scholastic books and the other half will be used to purchase resources from other publishers. Great work Sharks!

Mrs. Tompkins-London
Teacher-Librarian



Ensuring Student Safety in the Kiss and Ride Loop

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested it can be in the morning in front of the school and in the drop off loop in the parking lot. We strongly encourage students to walk to school. However, if you must use the loop in the morning, **please do not leave the car or wait in the loop at any time.**



There are two lanes of traffic in the loop. The lane closest to the sidewalk is for the purpose of drop off. The outside lane is an exit lane to be merged into after dropping off your child.

Children should not be exiting the vehicle on the driver's side between the two lanes of traffic as this is very dangerous. Your child should be exiting in the lane closest to the school and exiting out the passenger side of the vehicle so that he/she is stepping on to the sidewalk. Once dropped off, students should proceed directly to the schoolyard or Kindergarten fenced area. If you wish to park and walk your child to the schoolyard, **please park on a side street as there are only enough parking spaces for our staff to park.**

Please do not park in the Kiss and Ride Loop, this is for dropping off only.

The City of Markham has recently issued tickets to the owners of some vehicles parked at our school. Please be advised that the City is able to ticket for the following violations:

Parking in a fire route

Idling

Not physically being inside the car at a kiss and ride area

Parking in a bus route

Obstructing a fire hydrant

Parking in a designated handicapped space without a permit



We ask that you take care in abiding by the traffic by-laws, as we do not know when the City of Markham may be making visits to our school. As well, the fines can be quite high and unfortunately, the school has no ability to override a ticket if it has been issued by the City.

Eco Ideas for Home from Student Eco Team

The end of the school day shouldn't be the end of your child's environmentally friendly mind. Getting them involved in eco-friendly actions around the house will be a great way to further expand your child's opportunities. Just simple things like getting them to turn off the lights when nobody's in the room or learning about ways to conserve water is a great way to start. However, one main area to focus on would be learning how to use the garbage, recycling, and green bins appropriately. Encourage them to choose wisely about what bin their garbage will go in. Introduce them to each different bin and why we use it to help our environment. For example, a banana peel goes in the green bin because it can be used as compost and can later help the earth, plants and soil. So, just by making a few activities part of your daily routine, will help your child fully understand that we are responsible for the earth's well-being.



For an exact list on what item goes in what bin visit:

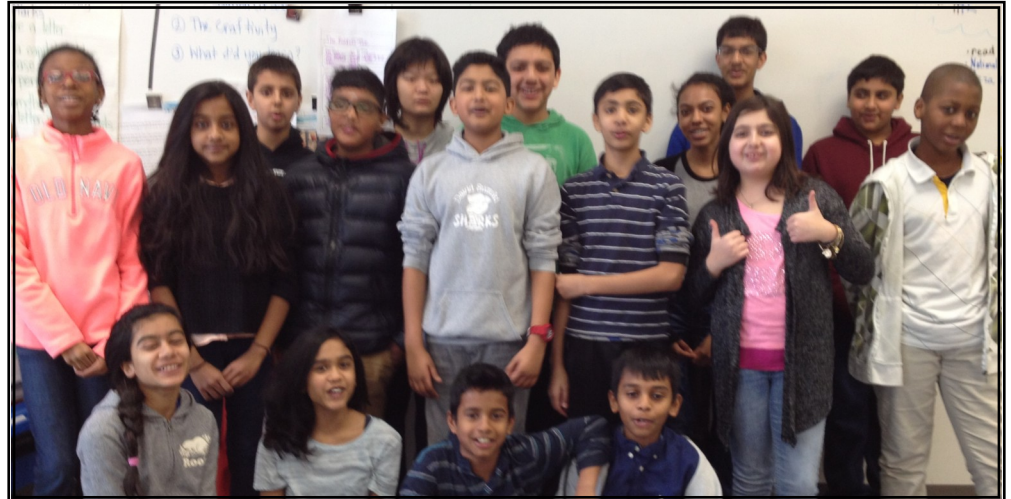
<http://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/RecyclingWaste/WhatGoesWhere/>



SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

Suzuki's Student Equity Team

Starting on Monday, January 26, the student equity team began to prepare our school for the 'Say My Name' campaign; a kindness challenge being issued to all of Canada. School, businesses, families, organizations and individuals are encouraged to practice random acts of kindness throughout the month of February, which will culminate in the international release of the song 'Say My Name' by Glen Marias. The members of the student equity team are preparing posters and announcements that will encourage the students to practice as many random acts of kindness as possible; all of which will culminate in a Day of Pink across Canada to recognize all victims of bullying and spread the message of kindness to others. Please check out the website

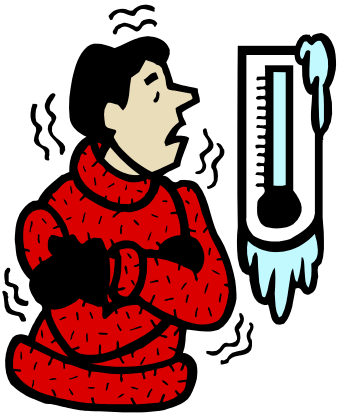


Mrs. Hudspith and Mrs. Firoz's Kindergarten Class

In our kindergarten class, students are learning and inquiring about how 2d and 3d shapes are used in our everyday life. Using recycled materials from home, we worked together to create a mini city in our dramatic play area. During recess time, students are using what they have learned about shapes to create their own structures in the snow. We are having so much fun with this inquiry!

Mrs. Hudspith/Firoz





Cold Weather and Indoor Recesses

With the arrival of the cold weather, it is imperative that you send your child to school dressed appropriately. This includes remaining outside for 30 minutes at morning recess and 40 minutes at lunch recess. With severe weather conditions, reduced outdoor recesses or indoor recesses may take place. This decision is made on a day by day basis and would typically occur at about the -20°C mark (with wind chill). Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school with extra clothes as it is easier to take off a layer if they get too hot than it is to put on a layer they may not have if they get too cold. Also, please pack extra socks and pants so your child will have something to change into if they should happen to get wet.

Curriculum Corner



“Oral language is often an assumed or invisible part of the curriculum in the junior grades. It may appear on the timetable only when a particular language form (such as readers’ theatre, debate, or oral report) is directly addressed, either in the Language program or in a content area. Yet much of what students learn is learned through oral language – talking, listening, observing, and interacting with others.

Most of the time devoted to oral language in the junior classroom is taken up by the more informal or unrehearsed, but essential language functions. These include asking and answering questions, brainstorming, recounting and sharing experiences, telling and retelling stories, expressing opinions, and giving explanations. Less formal, unscripted uses of talk and listening occur frequently throughout the day, every day. It is these classroom interactions that engage students in “talk for learning” and provide them with a forum for developing their thinking, understanding, and expression in all areas of the curriculum. Teachers plan and arrange for purposeful talk, provide models and demonstrations of talk about interesting, engaging texts, topics, and experiences, and constantly seek out ways to increase opportunities for all students to use talk as the “motor for learning” in the classroom.
(A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction Grades 4-6 – Volume 4 Oral Language)

It is through the aforementioned description of oral language (within the classroom context) that we come to appreciate its importance from both a teaching and learning standpoint. The talk that students partake in, provide teachers with valuable information around how students are processing the information they receive, the viewpoints they hold, and the questions they have. Through the observation of this discourse, teachers can devise programming (and modify accordingly) to scaffold both expressive and thinking skills.

Message from our Trustee



416 885 3479

Juanita.Nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

*Inspire*Learning!

The arrival of February is an exciting and busy time in our schools. It marks the mid-point of the school year, the end of secondary exams and the arrival of mid-year report cards. February also brings us longer daylight hours, the beginning of the end to winter and of course, the excitement of the approaching spring break!

It is my hope that at this point, parents have seen signs of academic growth and development in their children. I encourage all parents to carefully review their child's report card and reflect on the learning that has taken place since September. Now is a good time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for the rest of the school year.

February may be the shortest of the 12 months, but it is a busy time. There is still lots of learning, and opportunities for growth, ahead. With that in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful second term.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or by phone at **416-885-3479**. If you would like to be kept informed about various initiatives or topics that relates to your child's education and wellbeing, please send me your email address and I would be happy to keep in touch with you on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Juanita Nathan

Trustee | York Region District School Board

City of Markham – Ward 7&8

UPCOMING DATES

A month of random acts of kindness in support of “Say My Name” campaign

Feb. 9	School Council Meeting 6:30
Feb. 16	Family Day, school closed
Feb. 18	Report Cards sent home
Feb. 25	Character Awards Assembly 12:00
Feb. 26	Kindergarten Concert 6:30
March 4	Clarkson Hockey Cup Game
March 13	PA Day, NO school
March 16-20	March Break, NO school



FAMILY DAY
FEBRUARY
16TH

Family Day is observed in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan on the third Monday of February. This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities.


David Suzuki Public School will be closed on Family Day.

Things to do on Family Day:

Family Day is a time to plan and take part in activities aimed at the whole family. These include: visiting the museum, watching movies, skating on outdoor ice rinks, taking a winter hike, playing board games or taking part in shared craft activities.

[Milliken Mills arena offers skate and helmet rentals at very affordable rates.](#)

ECO CORNER



We would like to let families know that we will no longer be accepting printer ink cartridges or cell phones at our school for recycling. Please remember that these items still should be disposed of properly and can be dropped off at a Recycling Depot for proper disposal. There are 2 Recycling Depots close to us:

- 1) Unionville Depot (located at Main Street and Station Street)
- 2) Markham Depot (located at 6041 Highway 7 east).

Both of these Depots are open Monday to Saturday. We are still more than happy to accept household and rechargeable batteries.

Let's all do what we can to keep these items out of our landfills!